

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgement of Applicants' claim for foreign priority and of receipt of all certified copies of the priority documents. Applicants also note with appreciation that the Examiner has reviewed and considered the Applicants' Information Disclosure materials filed on July 29, 1999.

Abstract Objection

The Examiner has objected to the Abstract of the Disclosure. Applicants submit appropriate corrections herewith. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract are respectfully requested.

Drawings Objection

The Examiner has objected to Figure 2 of the drawings. Applicants submit appropriate corrections herewith with the changes indicated in red ink. Applicants have designated the legend for Figure 2 as shown in red. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of the drawing correction and approve the change so that the Applicants may timely prepare formal drawings.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)/103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 and 5-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Bennett et al (USP 5,189,733). Dependent claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Bennett et al (USP 5,189,733) in view of Finni (USP 5,941,978). In addition, dependent claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Bennett in view of Hayball et al. (USP 6,233,610). The grounds of rejection are respectfully traversed.

For “anticipation” under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the reference must describe, either explicitly or inherently, every element/limitation of the Applicants’ claims.

Bennett discloses an application program memory management system for “management of memory resources in a computer.” See col. 1, lines 6-7. Bennett discloses one personal computer comprising a “main memory, one or more bulk memories e.g., disk memories, a processor, and input-output devices.” See col. 1, lines 10-12. Bennett provides “a solution to limited main memory capacity” in one computer. See col. 1, line 43.

Finni discloses a “method for comparing attribute values of controllable object expressions in a network element.” See col. 1, lines 1-3. Succinctly, Finni provides a method of “selecting a target group of an operation applied to a network element of a communication network.” See col. 1, lines 12-13. Thus, Finni provides a “general purpose solution...[in implementing] the testing of the FILTER condition in a network element ...[whose] object is to implement a function which is able to determine...whether the attribute values of the object instance fulfil the FILTER condition.” See col. 2, lines 14-22.

Hayball discloses a “communications network having management system architecture supporting reuse.” *See* col. 1, lines 1-3. Hayball discloses that a “conventional communications network comprises a plurality of heterogeneous network elements NE, controlled and operated by one or more different network controllers NC.” *See* col. 2, lines 9-12. Thus, Hayball separates out the “management of functionality of a network from the management of device-specific implementations of those functions in proprietary legacy equipment, a network management system may be constructed making greater re-use of management system structures, and reducing development time of management systems by encapsulating previous design effort in re-usable management system structures.” *See* col. 4, lines 58-65

Claims 1, 7, and 9

Independent claims 1, 7, and 9 recite among the unique combinations of elements therein, the element, as typically described in claim 1, of “managing a network element using managed objects (MO1, MO2, MO*) wherein the network element is managed in response to requests (RQ) by accessing memory (MEM) and using the objects (MO1, MO2, and MO*) stored therein...” The grounds of rejection assert that Bennett teaches this feature of Applicants’ claimed invention. However, it is respectfully submitted that the grounds of rejection are in error with respect to the Bennett reference.

Bennett discloses that the problem to be solved is the “limited main memory capacity” in one computer. *See* col. 1, line 43. There is no disclosure of a network. Thus, Bennett does not describe, either explicitly or inherently, every element/limitation of Applicants’ claims.

Furthermore, Bennett does not disclose, teach, or suggest “managing a network element using managed objects” as typically described, for example, in claim 1. Instead, Bennett teaches away from managing a network element by providing a self-contained solution to limited available memory when using a software application program (e.g., word processor or spreadsheet). *See* col. 1, lines 23-25. In fact, Bennett discloses, as a preferred embodiment, one “IBM-compatible personal computer.” *See* col. 4, line 14. Accordingly, claims 1, 7, and 9 and their dependent claims should be patentable over this reference.

In addition, neither Bennett, Finni nor Hayball, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests managing a network element using managed objects in a digital communications network, as claimed. As such, claims 1, 7, and 9 and their dependent claims should be patentable over any combination of these references.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and/or under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

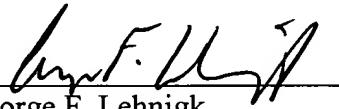
Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No.: 09/328,893

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE:

The abstract is changed as follows:

[Management of a Network Element Using Managed Objects in a Digital
Communications Network]

Network elements of a digital communications network, for example [of] an SDH network (SDH = Synchronous Digital Hierarchy), are managed by controllers using managed objects. To permit fast access to managed objects, a simple circuit with a controller (FLT), a database (DB), and a temporary memory (MEM) is proposed. The controller carries out a method of managing the network element wherein in response to requests (RQ), the objects are stored into the memory and individual objects (MO*) are swapped out to make room for new data according to [predeterminal] predetermined criteria [, which specify, for example, the maximum residence time of the object in memory]. [At least these] These objects are transferred to the database (DB). Only upon reception of a request (RQ*) for access to an object (MO*) , which is no longer in the memory (MEM) , will this object (MO*) be read from the database and transferred back into the memory. The controller manages the network element in response to [the] these requests [by accessing the memory and using the objects stored therein].